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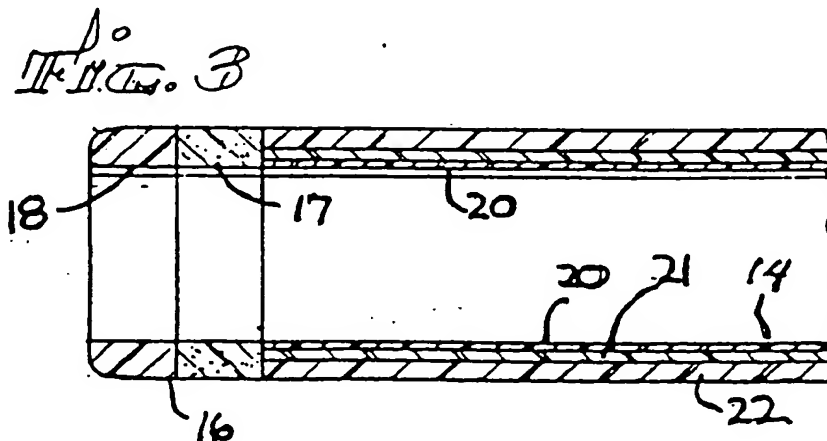
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(54) Intravascular catheter with a nontraumatic distal tip.

(57) An intravascular catheter such as a guiding catheter of composite construction having a nontraumatic distal tip comprising a proximal elastomeric tubular element (12) and a distal elastomeric tubular element (13) formed of softer material than the proximal section. The proximal tubular section (17) of the distal tip preferably has a radiopaque material incorporated therein to enable the distal tip to be fluoroscopically observable when in place within a patient. The shaft (11) of the catheter, which exhibits excellent torquability and pushability, is formed with a very thin wall. The catheter shaft includes an inner tubular member (21) of braided polymeric fibrous strands impregnated with a thermoset polyurethane and having an outer jacket (22) or coating of thermoplastic polyurethane secured to the braided tubular member. In some embodiments it is preferred to include a lubricous liner (28) within the braided tubular member.



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